

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2245

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 1440

EXDIS/SALT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON MARCH 5 MEETING (SALT TWO--394)

1. AT TODAY'S MEETING I MADE STATEMENT AMPLIFYING RATIONALE FOR OUR POSITION ON MIRVED ICBMS AND ENDED WITH STATEMENT ON OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER LIMITATIONS ON MIRVED SLBM THROW-WEIGHT, IF SOVIETS AGREE TO EQUAL LIMITS ON MIRVED ICBM THROW-WEIGHT. (IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION, I TOLD SEMENOV THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR MARCH 1 CONVERSATION, I HOPED SHORTLY TO DEAL WITH QUESTION OF POTENTIAL OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS INCLUDING BOMBERS. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT IN MANY WAYS HE OFTEN CONSIDERED WHAT I SAID TO HIM PRIVATELY MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT I SAID IN MY STATEMENTS.) SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (WHICH IN PRIVATE MEETING HE CHARACTERIZED AS EFFORT ON HIS PART TO CONTINUE TO GIVE ME A CLEAR FIELD TO PRESENT OUR POSITION) WAS ENTIRELY CONFINED TO ARTICLE X OF THEIR OCTOBER 9 DRAFT ON "OTHER STRATEGIC SYSTEMS." HIS PRESENTATION WAS IN STANDARD TERMS, AND HE GAVE ME A SLIGHTLY REVISED VERSION OF A DRAFT ARTICLE. ROWNY ANSWERED TRUSOV'S MARCH 1 QUESTION BY SAYING WE SHOULD STICK TO CENTRAL ISSUE OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS, AND I POINTED OUT AT THE TABLE THAT ROWNY'S STATEMENT ALSO HAD

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"CERTAIN APPLICABILITY" SEMENOV'S STATEMENT TODAY.

BELITSKY MADE LONG PEDESTRIAN AND BOILER-PLATE STATEMENT
RITERATING THEIR POSITION ON FBS.

2. IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION I REFERRED TO CHART ON SOVIET ICBM
R AND D, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CHULITSKY AT PREVIOUS MEETING,
SAYING I HOPED THAT SEMENOV HAD STUDIED IT BECAUSE, IN ADDITON
TO MY STATEMENT TODAY, I THOUGHT THAT THIS WELL DRAMATIZED THE
NECESSITY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THE MIRVED ICBM QUESTION.
SEMENOV SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CHART.

3. REFERRING TO "FORTHCOMING MOSCOW MEETING" SEMENOV ASKED
FOR MY PLANS AND INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO OUR SUBSEQUENT
MEETINGS. I REPLIED THAT I HOPED SUBSTANTIALLY TO WIND UP
THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POSITION BY MARCH 8 MEETING, OR AT THE
LATEST MARCH 12, AND IN ANY EVENT ON MARCH 12 PLANNED TO DO
A SUMMARY AND ROUND-UP OF MY PRESENTATIONS. HE SAID THAT ON
MARCH 8 HE PLANNED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE "SOVIET
CONSIDERATIONS" ON MIRVS AND THROW-WEIGHT AND ASKED ME TO
PRIVATE LUNCH THURSDAY, MARCH 7, IN ORDER THAT HE COULD
HEAR ABOUT "MY FURTHER PLANS" AND ALSO "EXPRESS SOME OF
HIS OWN CONSIDERATIONS."

4. HE ALSO NOTED "LARGE NUMBER OF PRESS STORIES" ON SALT,
INCLUDING THOSE IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS QUOTING SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER AND ON STOESSEL'S PRESENTATION CREDENTIALS. I SAID
THAT AS I HAD PREVIOUSLY REMARKED, BECAUSE OF THE VERY HIGH
LEVEL OF THE ATTENTION NOW FOCUSED ON SALT, HE HAD TO EXPECT
PRESS STORIES AND PRESS SPECULATION. I SAID THAT IT WAS MY
OBSERVATION THAT THUS FAR, WHILE SOME OF THESE STORIES HAD
VARIOUS BITS AND PIECES OF THE FACTS, NONE OF THEM HAD FULLY ACCURATE
ACCOUNT OF THE WHOLE SITUATION IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. (I ALSO
NOTED NONE HAD ORIGINATED FROM GENEVA.) AS FAR AS SCHLESINGER'S
STATEMENT IS CONCERNED, I SAID THAT THIS MORNING'S STORY SIMPLY
INVOLVED THE RELEASE OF THE TEXT OF THE FORMAL STATEMENT WHICH
THE SECRETARY HAD GIVEN TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND DID NOT
INVOLVE ANYTHING DIFFERENT FROM THE SECRETARY'S INFORMAL REMARKS,
WHICH NITZE HAD GIVEN SHCHUKIN SOMETIME AGO. I SAID THOSE
INFORMAL REMARKS CONTAINED THE FULL EXPRESSION OF SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER'S VIEWS. SEMENOV INDICATED THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR
WITH THEM. JOHNSON

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